

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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Czechoslovak Army

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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.  
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SOURCE:

1. During the 1952 maneuvers Czechoslovak units showed much less endurance and enthusiasm than Soviet units (sic). The Czechoslovak soldiers objected particularly to making day marches of over 35 km., night marches on two consecutive nights and marches in the rain without protective clothing.
2. The cause of the discontent of the Czechoslovak soldiers was not a lack of physical qualities, but their annoyance over orders considered as useless and having no value for training. Soviet officers declared that the Czechoslovak soldiers thought too much, when what was wanted of them was to carry out orders. Russian soldiers, in comparison with the Czechoslovaks, obey blindly, and never attempt to analyze their orders.
3. Slovak soldiers in the recent maneuvers gave much more satisfaction to the Soviets than did Czechs. The soldiers coming from the great industrial cities were particularly demanding with regard to their comfort and showed great interest in technical matters. They considered Soviet methods antiquated and ridiculed the primitive methods of Soviet officers. Czech soldiers retain a certain admiration for the German Army, which they hate, but which impressed them.
4. Acts of sabotage and real disobedience were extremely rare, but the list of sick and delinquents during the maneuvers was very large. The 3 Infantry Regiment, 2,680 men, had the following list during the maneuvers: 364 reported sick (93 recognized by the doctors as mild cases), 13 delinquencies, 197 disciplinary punishments. The list for the 7 Artillery Regiment, 1,920 men, during the same period was: 244 reported sick (63 recognized by the doctors as mild cases, 3 as serious cases), 7 delinquencies, 111 disciplinary punishments.

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5. After the maneuvers all promotions were stopped for six months in the participating Czechoslovak units as a general punishment. Forty-five percent of the commanding officers in Czechoslovak units were relieved, and an order was given that marching speed should be increased by 10 percent.
6. Soviet officers criticized Czechoslovak officers for being too friendly with their troops. As a result Czechoslovak officers were ordered to avoid personal contact with their men and to enforce discipline more strictly.

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